

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Planet's fever driving climate change

The COVID-19 pandemic reminds everyone about the significance of our body temperature when it rises to fever level (100.4 degrees F). Recognizing the fever's significance – that if ignored, there is potential for bad things to happen like the breakdown of body organs, coma and ultimately, death – we take immediate action to mitigate.

By the same logic, the significance of rising atmospheric temperature should garner similar recognition and response, but it doesn't!

Why not? Because we don't think in terms of a "feverish" atmosphere – and its potential consequences.

The fact is that the very air we breathe reached fever status globally (57-58 degrees F) late during the last century, when "bad" weather-related events like wildfires, hurricanes and flooding became more frequent and more severe around the globe.

Changing air temperature is the mechanism that drives climate change. When the temperature rises significantly in abrupt fashion, say over decades, fever results and "bad" events follow.

Unfortunately, we have ignored our feverish atmosphere for too long. Experts warn that we have at most a decade to do some serious mitigation before the impacts of climate change go from bad to outright terrifying!

Let's recognize the atmosphere's fever and act now.

Roy Wysnewski, Sarasota

Anti-vaxxer cares only about himself

To Typhoid Harry, who wrote "Respect my right to risk getting COVID," a July 27 letter: What don't you understand about "if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem"?

Unless you spend all of your time indoors by yourself, well away from any other human being, you are a potential spreader of the deadly COVID-19 virus!

This isn't about you. It's about all the innocent people, including children, who could die because of your personal decision, not to mention cause another shutdown and economic disaster.

You say you care about other people, but you are lying to yourself and everyone else. So, either get vaccinated, wear an N95 mask or spend every minute indoors alone until this pandemic is over.

Sue Lang, Venice

Conservatives seek control over education

Ross Douthat's July 20 column was a pitiable effort to argue that education, especially the history of American society and American history itself, is

skewed toward liberal/progressive theories and views, and that although conservatives have attempted to use state legislatures to remedy this, they are doomed to failure ("How conservatives can reshape education").

He cited a column by George Washington University Professor Samuel Goldman, written for TheWeek.com, noting the history of failed attempts by conservatives (let's honestly call them today's Republicans) to legislate against liberal cultural shifts, quoting "Statute books are where conservative curriculum reforms go to die."

Conservatives would do better to target not ideas, but the purveyors of those ideas, the administrators, professors and other instructors in our educational institutions, from elementary school to college, Goldman suggests, and Douthat appears to agree.

Being intelligent and well educated, and often growing into principled human beings, they may carry the "disease of liberalism." You must purge them, screen them – don't hire them at all if possible.

How close are the Republicans to becoming the "Thought Police," the "Big Brother" they claim to fear? Perhaps it is time to reread George Orwell's classic, "1984."

Sandra J. Gander, Bradenton

Cult of Trump will lead to catastrophe

How will the madness end?

Where is the Cult of Trump, abetted by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and Republican state Sen. Joe Gruters, taking us? What can we learn from other cults, like the Branch Davidians, Heaven's Gate, Peoples Temple and Nazis?

The answer is all around us. Cults are an invitation to death. Hundreds of thousands of our friends and neighbors have already perished needlessly from COVID-19 disinformation, indifference and cruelty.

Is it likely that, if kept in power, the Cult of Trump will bring us the future we want? Only if we hope for a tomorrow of chaos, carnage and catastrophe.

Patrick Bidelman, Nokomis

READER QUESTION

In response to the Surfside condo collapse, which killed 98 people, should local governments or the state require regular inspection of all condo high-rises in Florida?

Share your thoughts with us and we will publish a selection of letters. Send to editor.letters@heraldtribune.com.

The maximum length allowed, as always, is 200 words and don't forget to include your full name, address and phone number. Only your name and city will be published.